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CANADA AND THE WAR

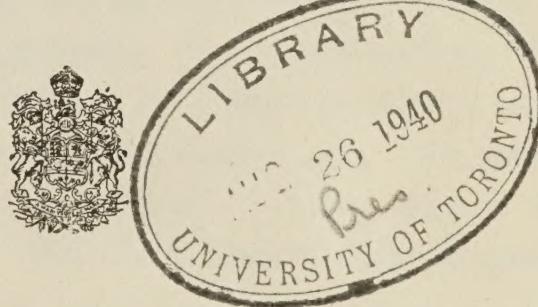
NEW SITUATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I. Canada's War Effort Viewed In Relation To The
War Effort Of The Allied Powers

II. Italy's Entry Into The War

BROADCASTS BY
RIGHT HON. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.
William Lyon
Prime Minister of Canada

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, and MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1940



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Canada and the War

NEW SITUATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

I—Canada's War Effort Viewed in Relation to the War Effort of
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BROADCAST BY

RIGHT HON. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1940

Fellow Canadians:

I speak to you to-night in the midst of the most crowded weeks in human history. Barely a month has passed since Holland and Belgium were first ravaged by lightning warfare in all its fury and frightfulness. Every succeeding day since their first heroic resistance has brought new shocks, new problems, and new duties to those in whose hands has been placed the task of defending freedom.

The brutal domination of Holland, the tragic surrender of Belgium, the invasion of France, the capture of the channel ports, have happened in such quick succession that the world has hardly had time to breathe. To-day, Britain, no longer in island security, prepares to meet the invader across the narrow sea. At this very hour, the greatest of all battles in history is being waged within 70 miles of the city of Paris. On its outcome may depend the future of France.

As the world has been shaken to its foundations by the swift march of terrible events, nearly every emotion in the heart of each one of us has been profoundly stirred. Hate for the inhuman

oppressor, pity for the helpless and the homeless, pride for the brotherhood of the brave who have honoured the lands of Britain and France that gave them birth.

One crisis has not passed before another has arisen in its place. Peril has been heaped upon peril. Who will say on what new horizon destruction may not loom to-morrow?

Public Questionings and Doubts

Is it any wonder that you, my fellow citizens, have in these days been concerned and impatient, full of questionings and doubts. You would not be men and women if you had not been thus harassed and distracted. No one could have British or French blood in his veins and know, as we in Canada know, what Britain and France mean to the cause of free men, without having his nature stirred to its very depths by all these things.

You have rightly been asking what has been done, and is being done, to help the cause to which we have freely pledged our honour and our strength. It is only natural that you should be worried about our fighting forces, about aeroplanes and equipment. It is only natural, too, that you should be anxious about our internal security.

I intend to-night to speak of these things. I do not propose to apologize for democracy nor to direct my attention to criticisms. We cannot have the one without the other. My purpose rather is to endeavour to help you if I can, amid all these swift changes in the scene in Europe to see the conflict in its true perspective, and with the conflict, also in its true perspective, the war effort of our own country. Unless we are to abandon altogether the basis upon which we have proceeded from the outset, our war effort must be kept properly related in time, nature and place, to that of the allied powers.

We must never forget that freely, and as one people, we entered this war. As one nation we ranged ourselves on the side of freedom. As one nation we fight to-day, and as one nation we will fight to the end.

Three Distinct Periods—I. The Shadow of War

To help you gain a true perspective, may I remind you that the war itself did not commence until September last. Nine months have not yet passed since Parliament authorized expenditures for

active participation in the war, and in particular for co-operation by Canada with the allied powers in the theatres of war in Europe.

As regards the war, there are three periods which may be considered as separate and distinct. There was the first period, what I might call the shadow of war, during which time there was still a hope for peace. Within that period the democratic nations worked for peace. While they worked for peace, they also prepared for war. If they had not worked for peace, they would have been accused of precipitating war, not only by the present enemies of democracy, but also by their own people. They prepared for war more slowly and later than their enemies. The very strength of democracy in peace time became in some measure a handicap in war-time, and in preparations for war-time. The final preparations had necessarily to await the hour that would gain for them the sanction of their Parliaments. That hour came to Canada with the calling of the special session of our Parliament.

II. The Outbreak and Beginnings of War

There begins the second period. When the shadow had deepened, the storm broke and war began. Britain and France believed that the war would be long. They still believe that they were right in that belief. They planned for at least a three-year war; four years were mentioned as a possibility. Hitler doubtless knows that he can only win a short war. Britain and France knew that they could only win a long war. They asked us to join with them in planning for a long war. Our first effort, therefore, while designed to make the greatest possible contribution at the beginning, was also planned so that, from month to month, man-power would grow, production would grow, output of munitions and supply would grow, until at the critical time when accumulated strength became the decisive factor, it would be available to ensure victory.

III. The Blitzkrieg—Lightning War

The third period is that of the Blitzkrieg—lightning war, as it is expressed in English. It accords with the plan which Hitler has all along had in mind. Save by those possessed of gangster instincts,

its possibility could never have been conceived. It aims to bring, one by one, under the iron heel of Nazi Germany, nation after nation, whether neutral or belligerent, by methods of terrorism and barbarism unparalleled in warfare throughout the ages. The element of surprise is all-important. The process was under way before the invasion of Poland. It began with the invasion of Austria and Czecho-Slovakia. It resulted in the destruction of Poland; it has been only too manifest in the conquest of Denmark and Norway, of Holland and Belgium. It is now seeking by lightning strokes to conquer France and Britain.

These two countries have been taken by surprise; not so much by sudden attack upon themselves—sudden attack was expected at the commencement of the war. The surprise has come by the swiftness, the magnitude and the ferocity of the events that preceded them. No part of the world has been shocked by these tragic happenings more than this continent. The loyalty of neutral nations to international law became the weapon with which a treacherous enemy struck at their hearts. They have been sacrificed on the altar of their own neutrality.

An Altered and Much Needed Perspective

The lightning war in Europe has forced Britain and France to view the whole situation in a different perspective. Their plans, and with them, our plans, have had to be changed, and quickened in the light of new and appalling developments. Contributions of men, machines and material have had to be hastened. Daily improvisations have become necessary and have been made. The movements of men and ships have had to be altered. Large additional sums of money have had to be found.

It is, I fear, only too true that the magnitude and speed of action, the immensity of the changes in the military situation, and the unparalleled horrors of the conflict have all but destroyed our sense of time. It is difficult to realize that a month has not yet elapsed since Holland and Belgium were invaded. The heroic resistance of these small nations to the German onslaught, and the magnificent response of Britain and France to their appeal for aid were absorbing the attention of the people of Canada when, just a week later, our new parliament met.

As we watched the spectacle of the German forces crushing Holland and Belgium under the full might of concentrated warfare, it was inevitable that an unparalleled intensity of feeling should develop throughout the country. There developed equally naturally a tendency to measure our Canadian war effort in terms, not of long-range and carefully laid plans, but in terms of the terrible emergency of the moment. The unexpected rapidity with which the Nazi forces carried out their destructive advance naturally increased the tension and added to an impatient if natural desire for additional immediate action.

Extent of Canada's War Effort Obscured by Nature of Events

The dramatic events in Europe served to obscure what Canada had done, and was doing to prosecute the war; they also enhanced the difficulty of presenting to Parliament and the people a clear picture of our war effort.

As was to be expected, there was an insistent demand that the government should "speed up" its war effort to meet the new situation. At that very time, the government itself was throwing its full energy into adapting our organization and adjusting our plans to conform to the swiftly changing scene in Europe. It was impossible to decide upon changes of plans until accurate information could be secured from the battle front. When decisions were reached, some of them, for military reasons, could not be announced immediately. Some have not been, and can not yet be made public.

I should like to stress that everything that has been done recently has been accomplished in the time it has because the foundations of our war effort were well and truly laid. Many of the measures recently announced could not have been taken earlier, because the circumstances did not then call for emergency action of the character recently undertaken. Terrible risks must be taken to meet the present crisis—and Canada is sharing those risks—but we must beware of adding to necessary risks, the needless risk of

abandoning plans to face a long and bitter struggle in which staying power will, in the end, be decisive. To allow our passionate feeling to degenerate into unreasoning hysteria would be fatal to Canada's war effort and a grave injury to the allied cause.

Measures Taken to Meet Emergent Conditions

You have heard something in the last few days of what has been done to meet the terrible emergency. It could only be disclosed in instalments, and sometimes not at all. Many things must still remain secret. All disclosures must be made at a time when they suit the allied needs. I could not tell Parliament and people, for example, of General McNaughton's visit to the front and of the preparation for our troops to embark for France, until the story of the epic achievement of the evacuation of Dunkirk was made known to the world. I could not tell of the despatch of our destroyers to England, until after they had arrived in British waters. Unfortunately, we have been and still are often precluded from saying a word of what we had been asked to do, and of what, in fact, we had done and are doing.

It may help to bring home to you all a fuller appreciation of what has actually been accomplished if I summarize some of the results in terms of men, equipment and supply.

I should like, however, first to give you this solemn assurance. We offered to the allies, in the name of the people of Canada, all the additional assistance in our power to help them to deal with the recent emergency. We have made no restrictions. What we could do and have done, what we can produce, what we can manufacture, has been placed at their disposal to the utmost limit of our capacity and strength. They have asked us to do a number of things. We have sought to do each one of them promptly, completely, and without qualification. We have, on our own account, made additional offers and suggestions. Many of them have been accepted.

The Army

In the Army, when Belgium and Holland were invaded, we had 81,519 men of all ranks. We had one Division, with its ancillary troops, trained and equipped with motorized units on active service in England. Twenty-three thousand young Canadians were

ready for embarkation to Norway or to Flanders whenever the word came from the Allied High Command.

A second Division of men, with necessary auxiliaries, amounting in all to 24,000, were completing their Canadian training.

Strategic areas in Newfoundland were defended by this country's soldiers.

When Hitler's lightning war, the "blitzkrieg," began we advanced the date of the despatch of our second Division. We did likewise with all reinforcements for the first Division, who had not proceeded to England. We speeded the recruiting of reinforcements for the second Division. We undertook the formation of a Canadian corps in the field and provided the necessary corps troops. We decided to raise a third Division. The units have been announced, and recruiting has begun.

We formed a Veterans' Home Guard for the defence of our internal security, and have authorized the establishment of additional veterans' reserves. We undertook to raise rifle battalions for a fourth Division. We have established a special training course for officers, and veteran officers.

Canadian soldiers are to-day also on active duty in the West Indies and the North Atlantic.

The Navy

In the Navy, we began the month of May with 6,614 officers and ratings, including 125 officers and 100 ratings serving in the British Navy.

We had 94 vessels in commission.

We had 90 vessels under construction.

Our ships operated on both coasts, in West Indian waters, and convoyed ships from our shores and protected our harbours.

Since the course of the war changed, with the shock of unanticipated suddenness, we have ordered the recruitment of 4,900 additional men. Every shipyard now works to capacity. And to-day, by one of those strange changes of fate and fortune, our destroyers, willingly repaying a small part of an ancient debt, are helping to guard the shores of Britain, and watch with increasing vigilance for those who would violate her island freedom. I bade

them Godspeed when they left with the same pride with which you and the people of Britain greeted their arrival.

Our Navy is a young navy. It has inherited great traditions; it is helping to create them.

The Air Force

The Royal Canadian Air Force had no existence during the last war. At the beginning of May, it had a strength of 12,315 men. We had nine squadrons for home defence, one army co-operation squadron overseas, another completing its training in Canada, and reinforcements continuously preparing for active service in the Army Co-operation School.

The Commonwealth Air Training Plan was proceeding in magnitude, training, and time in accordance with the predetermined plan.

The Nazis struck with all their power. Their swift advance was made possible by their numerical superiority in the air. We immediately sent overseas No. 112 Army Co-operation Squadron. We called up for immediate service 5,000 recruits for the Royal Canadian Air Force. We undertook to despatch overseas a fighter squadron of the Royal Canadian Air Force. We appointed a Minister to devote his entire time and attention to National Defence for Air.

We have hastened the construction of air fields and hangars a year earlier than the time fixed under the Commonwealth Plan.

We have sent overseas a number of pilots recently graduated from Camp Borden, who were intended to be used as instructors. Many of our own aeroplanes were sent to Britain. Aeroplanes of British manufacture, ordered five months before the outbreak of war, for our own Air Force, and which in the month of May were on their way out to Canada, were, on our own instructions, stopped in mid-ocean and returned to Britain.

It has been stated that the Commonwealth Air Training Plan will be abandoned or postponed because of these changes. This is not true. It will yet be a decisive instrument of victory.

Money and Materials

Of money, I will say no more than that the present appropriation for war purposes alone is \$2,000,000 a day, an amount which will

necessarily be increased as we continue to seek to meet exceptional needs.

War Supply

By the 10th of May, when the "blitzkrieg" began, orders had been placed for \$225,000,000 worth of equipment, material and munitions for the Canadian army, navy and air force. The purchases ranged from clothing and personal equipment to aircraft and ships. Every shipyard in Canada was working at full capacity. The textile and clothing industries were also fully occupied. The production of munitions was being rapidly expanded, and aircraft production was rising steadily.

The blitzkrieg has created new problems of supply. Plans made in the early months of the war provided for the production by Canada of certain lines of equipment and by Britain of others, each to meet the needs of the other in certain respects. Changed circumstances have made it necessary for Canada to produce many things, even at greater cost, which it was expected would be supplied by Britain. In some cases it has been necessary to abandon the practice of using British specifications, if production is to be carried on speedily enough to meet emergent needs. The Department of Munitions and Supply is grappling vigorously with the new problems.

Need for Confidence and Calm

I have told you these things because it is difficult, amid all the news and distractions of war, for anyone in Canada to obtain a clear picture at one time of what is being done to meet the situation.

The government is devoting all its energy, and marshalling all resources to meet the threat to our liberty. We need your confidence. We need the constructive help of every Canadian. In steadfastness and courage remains the hope of human liberty. Panic, dissension, disunity, are the only enemies that can defeat us. All is not dark in the skies above us. The first series of enemy gains will not end this war, any more than it ended other wars in which the British and French peoples have fought side by side. The enemy's tactics, his weapons, his strength are now known. They surprised us. They will not defeat us.

In the light of all that is known of the situation as it is shaping itself in Europe to-day, I feel I would not be doing my full duty at this time, if I did not speak of other dangers which threaten.

Operations in New Theatres of War

I began by distinguishing three phases of the war. It is difficult to believe that we are not at this moment at the beginning of a fourth phase. Our attention from the outset has been directed to Germany as the sole enemy, and to her effort to destroy Britain and France. The coming phase will witness operations in entirely new theatres of war. It will most certainly be marked by conflict between nations that thus far have escaped or avoided hostilities. How sudden or how extensive these new developments may be, no one can say. What I wish to make clear is, that if at any moment we learn that fresh hostilities have broken out, on however terrible a scale, there is no reason why fresh fears should occasion undue alarm. We shall have, of course, to assess anew what may be necessary on our part to meet the demand of the new situation. New events will demand new measures, but we will do well to continue to keep the situation as a whole in its perspective.

While not under-estimating the dangers that threaten from other coasts and other seas, let us remember that against the perils of the present and the future are arrayed a new realization on the part of all free peoples of the nature of the conflict, and a new determination to spare no effort and no sacrifice in the indomitable will to conquer. If democracy lacked foresight and audacity in the past, as the Premier of France said yesterday, those days are over.

New Factors and Friends

The German territorial advances contain within themselves elements of weakness. Economic blockade and contraband control can, and will now be exercised with increasing and more effective pressure. Disregard for the strength and the ruthlessness of the enemy, lack of preparation to meet the demands of modern mechanized warfare, the suspense of waiting for an enemy who shrinks from no violation of right, and no manifestation of terror, all these things

have passed away. Discipline has come to us all, not from without, but from within. Wanton brutality has transformed isolation of outlook, and neutrality of heart, into mere empty words. The treachery that stabbed the neutral nations killed neutrality itself with the same fell blow.

If new enemies oppose us, we may be sure that old and new friends will arise to help us. The world-wide significance of the conflict is being realized in every land. You know how earnestly and vigorously the President of the United States has spoken in the name of humanity. There has been mobilized in the cause of freedom, the conscience of the civilized world, and tyranny will long remember the power of that conscience, and the final effect of the world's condemnation upon the forces of evil.

Canada's New Responsibility

Canada is called upon to accept a greater and higher responsibility. It was framed in living words by Mr. Churchill in his speech to the British House of Commons on Tuesday last. This nation with all the strength of its youth, the wealth of its resources, and the idealism of its freedom, will proudly accept its new responsibility. We are the bridge between the old world and the new; the bridge which joins the new freedom of the North American Continent with the ancient freedom of Britain which gave it birth. We will stand resolute to defend its approaches and its abutments.

From the harbour of Dunkirk and from the citadel of Calais the bravest men in the world battled their way home to fight once again for liberty and goodness and mercy.

To the making of Canada have come the same chivalry of France and the same gallantry of Britain which fashioned the glory of that triumph of heroism. I speak the heart and mind of our country when I say that every fort in Canada will be another Calais, and every harbour will be another Dunkirk, before the men and women of our land allow the light and the life of their Christian faith to be extinguished by the powers of evil, or yield their liberties to the tyranny of Nazi brutality.

Canada and the War

NEW SITUATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

II—Italy's Entry Into The War

BROADCAST BY

RIGHT HON. W. L. MACKENZIE KING, M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1940

Fellow Canadians:

The news reached Ottawa a few minutes after one o'clock to-day that Signor Mussolini, in a speech delivered at Rome, had announced that Italy was entering the war on the side of Germany. The official confirmation of this news was not received until the House of Commons met this afternoon. Realizing that the people of Canada would wish the Government to take action without delay, I immediately introduced a resolution which placed Canada at the side of Britain and France in the war against Italy, as was done with respect to the war against Germany in September last. The motion was seconded by the Honourable Mr. Hanson, the Leader of the Opposition, and was in the following terms:

Proceedings in the Canadian Parliament

“Whereas Italy has declared her intention to enter the war on the side of Germany and against the allied powers; and,

Whereas a state of war now exists between the United Kingdom and France on the one hand, and Italy on the other; and

Whereas at the outbreak of war the parliament of Canada decided to stand at the side of the United Kingdom and France in their determined effort to resist aggression and to preserve freedom:

It is expedient that the Houses of Parliament do approve the entry of Canada into a state of war with Italy, and that this House does approve the same.”

The resolution was supported by the Leaders of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the New Democracy groups and was adopted unanimously by the House before four o'clock.

State of War Between Canada and Italy Proclaimed

A session of the Senate was held at four o'clock. The same resolution was introduced and unanimously passed. A meeting of the Cabinet was held to-night, an Order in Council was passed, tendering to His Majesty the King the advice that a Proclamation should issue, declaring that a state of war existed between Canada and the Kingdom of Italy as and from June 10, 1940. The terms of the Order in Council were immediately communicated by cable to the Canadian High Commissioner in London, for submission to the King. As soon as His Majesty's approval has been given a Proclamation will be issued in the *Canada Gazette*, similar in form to that of September 10, 1939, which declared that a state of war existed with the German Reich.

Measures Taken to Maintain Internal Security

The Minister of Justice has authorized the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to take steps to intern all residents of Italian origin whose activities have given ground for the belief or reasonable suspicion that they might, in time of war, endanger the safety of the State, or engage in activities prejudicial to the prosecution of the war. Other necessary measures have been taken to prevent trading with the new enemy, or performing other acts which are not consistent with a state of war. Preparations for these and other necessary steps had been made well in advance of the declaration of war.

Italy's Treachery Foreseen

When I spoke to you on Friday evening last, I told you that before many days had passed there was every likelihood that nations which had hitherto avoided or escaped warfare would engage in hostilities. The signs were there for all to see, and messages from Europe served only to confirm the foreboding. As foreseen at that time and as I stated this afternoon in the House of Commons, after

many months of preparation, provocation in act and word and threat of open hostility, Italy has thrown her resources into the war at the side of Nazi Germany.

The motives that have inspired the government of Italy, and the methods which Italy has pursued are well known. With a callousness and treachery second only to that of Hitler, the German dictator, Mussolini, the dictator who holds the Italian people in thrall, has chosen what he believes to be the psychological moment to strike at Britain and France in the Mediterranean and Africa in order to satiate his lust for conquest and territorial aggrandizement, and for such glory as calculated duplicity and treachery can bring.

Betrayal of an Ancient Friendship

Barely eighty years ago, the peoples of Italy passed from serfdom and disunion to liberty and unity. In the struggles which are imperishably associated with the names of Mazzini, Cavour and Garibaldi, the English-speaking peoples gave to the Italian people a moral and material support that contributed in no small measure to the establishment and preservation of the Italian nation. At a time when the rest of Europe looked with eyes of apathy, and even of hostility, upon the rebirth of Italy, the government of the United Kingdom in a memorable dispatch advised the Italian people that they turned their sympathetic eyes to the gratifying prospect of a people building up the edifice of their liberties, and consolidating the work of their independence. The shouts of welcome of the British people to Garibaldi still ring through the years. As his great English biographer said: "Garibaldi will live as the incarnate symbol of two passions not likely soon to die out of the world, of love of country, and the love of freedom kept pure by the one thing that can tame and yet not weaken them, the tenderest humanity for all mankind."

Italy grew in power and in influence amidst many evidences of good-will from those who had hailed her rise to nationhood. Her citizens were welcomed in all the lands of the British Commonwealth beyond the seas, and not least in Canada. In that last Great War, she shared with us the burden of the day. She was rewarded with some of the fruits of victory. Through many

generations, Britain and France and their sons and daughters have turned to the art and literature of Italy for solace and inspiration. To countless millions her capital city has been one of the holy places of the world. From Rome, the spiritual power and comfort of an ancient and undying faith have gone into the lands of all the earth.

Amidst the discord and clamour of the world which is falling in ruins around us, I do not forget at this time the noble example set by the present occupant of the Holy See in his unceasing work for the preservation of peace and the exaltation of humanity itself.

All these ancient traditions of freedom and good-will, of religion, of literature and of art have been trampled upon and cast by wicked men into the darkness and dust.

The Strength and Weakness of Italy

It would be a great mistake to underestimate the seriousness of the new situation which has been created. Italy is a nation of forty millions. Under the domination of her dictator, she has been preparing for war longer than any other nation in Europe. A whole generation has been educated to glorify force. It is useless further at this time to regret the degradation of a free and peaceful people, to seek the causes for the change, or to condemn the evil doctrines which have poisoned the hearts and minds of Italian youth. The very names of Ethiopia and Albania are reminders of the use of overwhelming force to subdue the weak.

While at the moment the allied world breathes harder, it may truly be said that it breathes more easily. The suspense of the Italian threat has now been removed. It has become a stark reality. The addition of Italian strength to the enemy will need redoubled energy and increased determination on the part of us all. We know where Italy stands. The atmosphere is cleared. The hands of Britain and France are freed for immediate and vigorous action.

The spread of ruthless warfare into other seas, and on other shores, may well have an incalculable effect upon the opinion and attitude of those who still call themselves neutral. While

Italy has it in her power to occasion much damage and to divert the allied effort from the main task of defeating Germany, she is herself particularly vulnerable both on the military and economic fronts of the conflict and cannot for long hope to stand the strain of war.

Mussolini's Action the Most Ignoble Recorded in History

History will, I believe, record no action more ignoble than that of Mussolini. During these tragic months he has sat like a carrion bird of prey waiting for brave men to die.

To-day, he has declared war on those who were the traditional friends of his countrymen.

Callously and cynically, he has chosen what he believes is the fateful hour for the swoop and the treacherous blow.

Peaceful overtures, proffered concessions, bonds of ancient friendship sealed by the memory of common sacrifices in the cause of freedom, all these he has bartered for the vision of conquest and the phantom of power.

No one can foretell the horror that the spread of warfare in lands hitherto untouched by its ravages may bring to the world. But one thing is sure. Retribution will overtake all tyrants and the dictator of Italy amongst them. It is too early to predict the final effect of this treachery upon those who cannot sit idly by and watch the whole world become gradually but inexorably engulfed in the seas of battle. We may rest assured that the forces of liberty will rally in a supreme effort of victory.

An old friend and a new friend

When I spoke to you on Friday, I used these words: "If new enemies oppose us, we may be sure that old and new friends will rise to help us."

Many of you no doubt heard to-night the eloquent voice of both an old and a new friend—President Roosevelt. An old friend, because his heart, and the hearts of his people have always beaten in sympathy with ours. A new friend because in his ringing dec-

laration, he pledged the material resources of his great and powerful country to strengthen and maintain the cause of freedom.

Canada More Resolute Than Ever

As for Canada, this new peril to the allied cause will only increase our country's determination to stand resolutely at the side of Britain and France until the powers of evil which threaten the freedom of mankind are vanquished once and for all.